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2/29/08

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## School district congratulates student teams, groups

By Ross Flint | [rflint@reportert.com](mailto:rflint@reportert.com)  
Thursday February 28, 2008

### Martinsville

Academy Award fever could be felt during the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville school board's meeting Tuesday, but no Oscars were handed out.

Instead, simple "congratulations" were issued to several student groups, organizations and schools that have succeeded within the past month in statewide competitions and in two cases, for being named a finalist for one grant and receiving money for another.

The school board congratulated several Martinsville High School teams - the academic decathlon team for winning its 11th state championship; the girls' basketball team for winning the Northview sectional and advancing to the Bedford North Lawrence regional final game; girls' basketball players Jennifer Engle and Mallory Schwab for being named two of Indiana's top 100 players; wrestlers Briar Runyan and Jordan Krulik for competing in the IHSAA state finals; swimmer Jacob Coburn for advancing to the IHSAA state finals; and the students of the Business Professionals of America, who qualified at the district competition for the State Leadership Conference.

In addition, the board congratulated Poston Road Elementary for winning the GreenWorks! Community Action and Service grant worth \$1,479 from Project Learning Tree and West Middle School for being selected a finalist in the Goody's and Ashley Judd's Goody's Good Deeds for School's grant.

"If Ashley Judd makes the presentation, I'll let you know, and we'll all go," Superintendent Ron Kaiser said jokingly to the board.

Furniss also congratulated Centerton and Green Township Elementary schools for being named "Four-star" schools in Indiana two weeks ago. He pointed out that Smith Elementary missed "Four-star" status by .441 percent on attendance rate.

In other business, the board:

- Approved Resolution 279 authorizing \$1,427 of emergency allocations in the capital projects fund for the disassembling and removal of the mat storage area and swimming office storage area at the high school as ordered by the Indiana State Fire Marshall.

- Approved bids for contract bus routes.

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## FEMA Opens Disaster Center

Updated: Feb 28, 2008 05:37 PM EST

*The following information was provided by the City of Fort Wayne:*

Fort Wayne, IN- The Federal Emergency Management Agency will set up a Disaster Recovery Center starting today at the Sears Pavilion, 1701 Bluffton Road. The center will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday.

Anyone in Fort Wayne, Allen County or Huntington County can apply for disaster assistance at this location or check on the status of an application made over the phone or online.

Those affected by flooding can do the following at the Disaster Recover Center:

*Apply for FEMA assistance*

*Check the status of an application*

*Meet with a FEMA representative*

*Meet with a U.S. Small Business Administration representative for low-interest disaster loan assistance*

Sears Pavilion is by Foster Park, across from the Quimby Village shopping center on Bluffton Road.

The Disaster Recovery Center will be closed Sunday.

FEMA and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security last week added Allen County to the list of eligible counties for federal disaster assistance following flooding earlier this month.

Those requesting assistance can contact FEMA at **(800) 621-FEMA**, online at **[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)** or apply at the center. The telephone hotline is available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Those using TTY services can call (800) 462-7585. The deadline to register for assistance is March 31.

Applicants are advised to have the following information available to help speed up the application process:

Your current phone number

Your Social Security number, if available

A general list of damages and losses you suffered

If insured, your insurance policy number, or your agent and company name

General financial information

The address of and good directions to the damaged property

A phone number where you can be reached during the daytime and early evening

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Published February 29, 2008 08:31 am - Mary Jo Parker, National Weather Service (NWS), Wilmington, Ohio, warning coordination meteorologist, presented a weather spotters training session to 85 police, fire, emergency medical service, school and business representatives from Franklin and Ripley counties Feb. 25 in Batesville Casket Co.'s Customer Business Center Auditorium.

## Spotters report weather events

A rotating wall cloud can be seen on the horizon.

Golf ball-sized hail is coming down.

Funnel clouds have been spotted and a flash flood is occurring.

These are significant weather events that storm spotters report and make real-time observations about so lives can be saved and property protected.

Mary Jo Parker, National Weather Service (NWS), Wilmington, Ohio, warning coordination meteorologist, presented a weather spotters training session to 85 police, fire, emergency medical service, school and business representatives from Franklin and Ripley counties Feb. 25 in Batesville Casket Co.'s Customer Business Center Auditorium.

She emphasized, "The Ohio River Valley is prone to severe weather almost any time during the year." Even though the NWS uses Doppler radar and satellite pictures to detect atmospheric conditions, "the most important tool for observing thunderstorms is the trained eye of the storm spotter .... Real time verification adds credibility, enhances public response and improves warning accuracy."

Parker indicated that when people think of severe storms in southeastern Indiana, tornadoes come to mind. However, "97 percent of the weather we see is probably nontornado related." Therefore, she offered descriptions and safety tips when dealing with these phenomena.

Flooding is the No. 1 weather-related killer across the nation, the meteorologist revealed. "Swollen streams or drainage ditches are flood advisories. They are only dangerous if you don't take the right precautions.

"Flash flooding is the most dangerous flooding that occurs .... There is a rapid rising of water where water usually isn't at." Dam breaks can also cause this type of flooding.

"Forty to 50 percent of flood-related deaths are when people drive through already flooded places .... It does not take a lot of fast-running water to get yourself in trouble. Moving water 2 feet deep will carry away most cars."

Lightning is the No. 2 weather-related cause of death in the U.S. Even though it is dangerous, Parker says the NWS does not issue warnings for it because it occurs in all thunderstorms.

When lightning flashes, “the safest place to be is in your home or business. An automobile is the next safest .... If outdoors, you have little or no protection.

“A thunderstorm is defined as severe if it produces a tornado, hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger and/or wind gusts 58 mph or higher.”

The NWS employee showed photos of various types of clouds and explained how to distinguish between a tornado and a look-alike. “Two key features (that) present with a tornado are a debris cloud near the ground and organized rotation about a vertical axis.

“Rain shafts can look like tornadoes, but they don’t rotate and often change form within minutes.”

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## IU News Room

Last modified: Thursday, February 28, 2008

### IU to participate in statewide severe weather preparedness campaign

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Feb. 28, 2008**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- Indiana University communities are urged to participate in the March 2-8 severe weather preparedness campaign sponsored by the National Weather Service with cooperation from the Indiana State Department of Homeland Security, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Department of Transportation, the American Red Cross, the Indiana Broadcasters Association and the amateur radio community.

The link below is for a flyer that details events and includes information pertaining to Indiana Severe Weather Preparedness Week. As stated in the flyer, the goal is to better educate people about the hazards of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, and to help everyone be prepared should severe weather occur.

[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/ind/2008\\_svr\\_wx\\_awareness.pdf](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/ind/2008_svr_wx_awareness.pdf)

A statewide tornado drill will be conducted on March 5 (Wednesday) between 10:30 and 11 a.m. EST. A second drill will occur between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening. If Wednesday's drill is postponed due to bad weather, March 7 (Friday) is the make-up drill day. These tests should be used as times to practice your plan.

On IU campuses, officials will take this week as a time to plan, prepare and increase awareness for severe weather and practice what to do when it occurs. Administrators, faculty, staff and students should review Emergency Action Plans for any building they frequent on campus and become familiar with emergency procedures for those buildings. Building Emergency Action Plans are made available by building managers and Emergency

Control Committee members. They may also be found on the Web at

<http://www.indiana.edu/~riskmgmt/eap.htm>

Additionally, each department should take this week to inventory its emergency supply kits and first aid kits, and replenish any shortages. Day and evening tornado tests affords the IU communities the opportunity to practice work and home emergency response plans.

Everyone should also be aware: IU-Notify will NOT be included as part of these drills.

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